MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): I second it.

The motion was carried.

THE TRIVANDRUM CITY MUNICIPAL BILL.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I rise to introduce a Bill to provide for the administration of the Trivandrum Municipality. The Bill was published in the Government Gazette with a Statement of Objects and reasons.

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): I second it.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, this is a very important Bill. But, at the same time, I do not think it at all necessary to make a long speech. Nor do I think that the time would permit me to do so. Although the existing Regulation governing the Municipalities was passed 15 years ago as Regulation V of 1095, it was soon noticed that many of the provisions required improvement. And there have been representations from various quarters and on various occasions for the amendment of the law in various particulars. For instance, representations were made in the late Popular Assembly and in the municipal conferences that have been held from time to time. There were representations from the Municipal Councils for the amendment of the Regulation. The general trend of all these requests was that the law in Travancore should be brought on a line with the law that obtains in the Madras Presidency. As in the Madras Presidency, there is a special enactment for the Metropolis so in Travancore also it is proposed to have a special enactment for the city of Trivandrum. This Bill is drawn generally on the lines of the Madras City Municipal Act. The chief change introduced in this measure is stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. For instance, it is proposed to remove the sex disqualification.

Such disqualification remains a blot in our municipal law and has of course to be removed. Again, there has been a long standing cry from the Trivandrum City Municipality that their President should be a purely non-official one. For that also provision is made in this Bill. A discussion of the Bill by a Committee consisting of members of both the Houses would be very useful and I propose to move for a Joint Committee.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: After the principle of the Bill is affirmed, we shall consider it.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Sir, I say it is none too early that the Law Member brings forward a Bill of this kind. The Trivandrum Town has grown to be a city by the last 15 years and a change in the law governing the Municipality of the Town has become almost absolutely necessary. But considering the time at my disposal, I must restrict my observations to a few points which I wish

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[Mr. A. Thanu Pillai.]

to mention here. The provision in the Bill that a non-official President should preside over the Trivandrum Municipal Council is certainly very welcome. The appointment of an Executive Officer and the constitution of Standing Committees, these are among the main features of this Bill. And I agree that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee subject to this condition, that all these provisions would be considered, revised, and modified to any extent that the Committee considers necessary.

There are two points more which I want to mention here. The Bill mentions a minimum rate of property tax to be levied and not a maximum I think, that is a very objectionable feature of this Bill.

The powers of the President and the Commissioner as proposed for in the Bill seem to be somewhat too large for a Municipality like Trivandrum. There are also provisions relating to the discretion of Government in dealing with the administration of municipal affairs which have to be scrutinised.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Sir, Mr. Thanu Pillai has stated about the powers that ought to be vested in the Select Committee. I think, Sir, a very liberal attitude should be taken, so that the Select Committee going to consider this piece of egislation in detail should have full freedom in the matter of amendments. Sir, it has been admitted on all hands that the present Regulation stands in need of a thorough change and it is also a welcome feature of the Bill that at least now provision is going to be made for a non-official President in the Capital of Travancore. I think it may not be quite to the liking for our sisters even to mention the removal of sex disqualification as a boon that we are conferring on them at this stage of their development. So, Sir, I do not think it is necessary to dilate further on the details of the Bill but the principle of the Bill should be accepted and the only thing that we should be guaranteed is that we should have very liberal powers of amendments in regard to this Bill.

SRIMATI T. NARAYANI AMMA (*Nominated*): In according my whole-hearted support to the Trivandrum City Municipal Bill, I wish to express my appreciation of only one important change which is sought to be introduced by the new measure. I refer, Sir, to the removal of the sex-disqualification in the matter of eligibility to be members of the City Municipal Council. The bar now placed on women in this respect is indeed an anachronism, which ought to have been removed years ago. And it is highly gratifying to find that women's ineligibility to be members of the Municipal Council will be removed by the new measure when it is passed into law. I feel, sure, that whatever may be the differences of opinion in regard to other matters, this clause pertaining to the removal of sore grievance which the women of this progressive State are labouring under, will receive the support of every member of this House. I trust that the same spirit will be observed in the matter of nomination also to the Municipal Council. I find that, out of the 32 members of the Municipal Council, eight will be nomina-

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ted by the Government. My humble suggestion is that at least two of these eight seats should be reserved for women. With these few words, Sir, I support the principle of the City Municipal Bill.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): I too rise to support the principle of the Bill. It is about fifteen years since the Regulation, V of 1095, has been in force in Travancore, and the present Regulation is defective in so many respects, so much so that in the various municipal conferences and also from the Council meetings, representations were sent to Government that the Regulation requires changes in regard to various matters. It is a welcome feature that the draft Bill seeks to introduce many changes. In the first place, the strength of the Council is going to be increased secondly the need for a non-official President is recognised the bar on women also is sought to be removed ; that is also a noteworthy feature of the Bill and in regard to the various Standing Committees; an Executive Officer, the powers of taxation, and in regard to various other matters, many wholesome changes are sought to be effected. In these various aspects, the Bill is decidedly an improvement upon the Muniaipal Regulation of 1095 and the present Bill is based on the model of the Madras city Municipal Bill. We know the Trivandrum Town is fast growing into a city, the population has increased, the revenue is increasing and the various duties and responsibilities of the Council have increased. It is only fitting that this Bill is introduced at the right moment to effect suitable changes. With these few observations, I support the principle of the Bill.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Sir, I welcome this Bill not because it is modelled after the Madras Corporation Act which was followed by the Mysore Regulation, but because a Bill purporting to be an improvement on the existing Regulation V of 1095 has now at least been introduced. The provision of the removal of the sex disqualification, the increased proportion of the elected members and the provision of a non-official President for the city are certainly the main features for satisfaction. The Honourable members who spoke welcoming this Bill for the above changes, I am afraid, did not fully understand the significance of the provision of Commissioner with so much enlarged powers. Over 15 clauses are seen in the draft Bill relating to the powers of the Commissioner. In a sense the Commissioner appears to be the more important figure in the administration of the Municipality than the President himself. The experience that we have in British India of these Commissioners is one that is not encouraging as we might have come across articles in papers with regard to the doings and undoings of these Commissioners.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): May I ask the member whether he refers to the Madras Corporation Commissioner or the Commissioner of the District Municipalities ?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Of course, I am referring to the Corporation Commissioner himself as well as the others.

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[Mr. M. Sivatanu Pillai]

It is through this Corporation Commissioner the Government very often intrude upon the peaceful administration of the Corporation or Municipality. We have come across institutions wherein Local Self-Government Ministers unnecessarily interfere in the Municipal administration. I shall reserve my remarks when the District Municipalities Bill is introduced. I only wish to say this much just to invite the serious attention of the members when it goes into the Select Committee, to the provisions relating to the powers of the Commissioner and the powers of control on the part of the Government. With this note of warning I wish the Bill will undergo a radical change in the Select Committee. in respect of such provisions in the Bill.

MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI (*Nominated*): സർ, ഈ ബില്ലിനെ സപ്പോർട്ടുചെയ്യുവാൻ എനിക്ക് വളരെ സന്തോഷമുണ്ട്. ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും അവസരാനുസരണം അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഈ ബില്ലിനെ വിഷയമായ തത്വത്തോട് ഞാൻ പരിപൂർണ്ണമായി യോജിക്കുന്നു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ സകല മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റികളും കാലാനുകൂലം ഇതിനാൽ പരിഷ്ക്കരിക്കപ്പെടാവുന്നതാണല്ലോ? നാനാജാതിമതസ്ഥരായ നിരവധിജനങ്ങൾ ഈ പട്ടണത്തെ അധിവസിക്കുന്ന തിരുവനന്തപുരം മുൻസിപ്പാലിറ്റി ഇന്നത്തേതിൽ ഏറ്റവും പ്രശസ്തമായവിധത്തിൽ ഭരിക്കയും പരിഷ്ക്കരിക്കയും ചെയ്യേണ്ട പ്രധാനവിഷയങ്ങൾ ഈ ബില്ലുകൊണ്ട് നിർദ്ദേശിച്ചുകാണുന്നു.

ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ എനിക്ക് ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുവാനുള്ളതു ഒരു പ്രധാനകാര്യമാണ്. ഈ തിരുവനന്തപുരംപട്ടണത്തിൻെറ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിലും താമസിച്ചുവരുന്നവരായ അധഃകൃതരുടെ ഗണ്യങ്ങളായ അവകാശങ്ങളേയും ആവശ്യങ്ങളേയുംകുറിച്ചു ഔന്നിച്ച് വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്യുവാൻ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. പട്ടണവാസികളെ പൊതുവേ ബാധിക്കുന്ന വിഷയങ്ങളാണിതിനുവിധേയമായിട്ടുള്ളതെന്നറിയാമെങ്കിലും നിത്യതയ്ക്കു കഴിവില്ലാത്തവരും സാധുക്കളുമായ അധഃകൃതരുടെപേരിൽ ഇന്നത്തെനിലയ്ക്ക് ചില പ്രത്യേക ദാക്ഷിണ്യങ്ങളും മറ്റുമാവശ്യമായിട്ടുണ്ട്. മുൻസിപ്പാലിറ്റികളിൽ മെമ്പറന്മാരാക്കിയും മറ്റും അധഃകൃതവർഗ്ഗക്കാർക്കുകൂടി വേണ്ട പ്രോത്സാഹനം നൽകേണ്ടവിഷയത്തിൽ പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചുകാണ്മാൻ താല്പര്യപ്പെടുന്നു. ഉൽക്കർഷേച്ഛ അധഃകൃതവർഗ്ഗക്കാരായ പുലയർക്കും, പറയർക്കും മറ്റും പൊതുവേ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും സഹായക്കുറവിനാൽ ഫലപ്പെടുന്നില്ല പട്ടണങ്ങളിൽ താമസിക്കാൻ സൌകര്യം ല

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ടിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവരുടെ ഉന്നമനം മറ്റുള്ളവരുടെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കുകൂടി കാരണമാകുന്നതാണെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. അതിനാൽ ഇവർക്കും വേണ്ട പ്രാതിനിധ്യവും സഹായവുമുണ്ടാകത്തക്കവിധത്തിൽ അധികാരികളുടെ ഭയാശങ്കയെ സാദരം അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ടും ഗവണ്മെന്റിനെ അഭിനന്ദിച്ചുകൊണ്ടും അനുകൂലിച്ച് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): The demand for the election of a non-official as Chairman of the Municipality has been put forward incessantly by the Trivandrum Municipality long long ago. I am glad that now at least that proposal has been included in the present Bill. There are various other good features in the Bill. As regards clause 98 that deals with property tax in the Bill I would submit it would hit hard, very hard, the interest of the inhabitants inside the municipal limits. The levy of various sorts of taxes would work havoc amongst the people living in the municipal area. Anyhow as there is a Select Committee stage, suitable amendments could be made then by deleting the harmful provisions.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Could the member cite one or two harmful clauses?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Property tax is one. Under property tax, there would be water and drainage tax, lighting tax, tax on buildings and lands, a general sanitary tax, etc. If such taxes are levied and such conditions exist, I fear the poor inhabitants of the Municipality will have to desert the municipal area and migrate to other parts of the State and thus give the town or city a deserted appearance (*Laughter*). Only half a dozen high-paid officers would be residing in the municipal limits of Trivandrum in order to satisfy the provisions relating to taxation.

MR. G. V. VEKITAKRISHNA AIYAH (*Co-opted*): Sir, I think the Honourable members of this House will only be welcoming the Trivandrum City Municipal Bill that is now before them. The powers of the President and the Commissioner have to be enhanced and the number of the non-official councillors also increased to meet the increasing needs of the growing City of Trivandrum and to stimulate the efficient progress of its municipal administration; and representations have been made to Government for preparing a draft Bill on the lines of the Madras Corporation. Sex disqualification in the matter of members of Municipal Council will be removed and the appointment of a non-official President is provided for in the Bill. The safeguards now put or specified in this Bill are also highly necessary. The provisions contained in this Bill are all essential for the safety and better conduct of the Municipal City of Trivandrum. With these words I support the Bill.

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MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): The idea of Government in introducing the Trivandrum City Municipal Bill is to promote the betterment of the City of Trivandrum. Well, Sir, we, who have been watching the municipal administration of the various municipalities, know for certain that mismanagement of municipal affairs is the order of the day. In fact municipal squabbles have almost become a by-word with us. And such a Bill is highly necessary for the requirements of a growing and a rapidly growing city like Trivandrum. Well, Sir, some of the provisions contained in the draft Bill are no doubt very desirable. But the most important provision that I find in the draft Bill is the provision for the appointment of a Commissioner with better and enhanced powers. There is also the provision for the appointment of standing committees, for finance, taxation, works etc. This, I hope, will, to some extent, remove the existing evils in the municipal administration, namely, the see-saw fight that is going on between two sections of the Council at all times. It is seen from the Statement of Objects and Reasons that this Bill is framed on the model of the City Municipal Act of Madras. Well, Sir, I should like to see a Mayor for our City of Trivandrum and also some aldermen for whom provision has been made in the Madras Council. With these words I support the object underlying the principle of the Bill.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The question is that the principle of the Trivandrum City Municipal Bill be accepted.

The House agreed and the principle of the Bill was accepted.

The Secretary then read the title of the Bill.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses to submit a report in six months. The Bill is a very long one and requires very detailed examination and when we remember the fact that it has to go through both the Houses, it appears to me that it would be better if a committee of both the Houses examine the provisions thereof. I move that the Bill be referred to a Joint Committee of the Assembly and the Council.

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): I second it

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Does the House agree?

The House agreed to refer the Bill to a Joint Committee to report within six months.

THE TRAVANCORE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES BILL.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I rise to introduce a Bill to make provision for the better management of the municipal affairs in Travancore except the City of Trivandrum. The Bill has been published in the Gazette, with a Statement of Objects and Reasons.

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